

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1313

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chief Justice William M. Barker on the occasion of his retirement from the Tennessee Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice William M. Barker is one such estimable jurist who has served with distinction on the Tennessee Supreme Court since his appointment in 1998; and

WHEREAS, elected to a full eight-year term in 1998 and again in 2006, Chief Justice Barker was elected by his fellow justices on the Supreme Court unanimously to serve as Chief Justice in 2005; and

WHEREAS, after a judicial career spanning twenty-five years, Chief Justice Barker will be taking a much deserved retirement from the bench on September 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, prior to his illustrious tenure as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Chief Justice Barker rendered twelve years of sterling service as a Circuit Court Judge of the 11th Judicial District in Chattanooga, followed by three years on the Court of Criminal Appeals; and

WHEREAS, in an exemplary career of service to the citizens of this State, Chief Justice Barker has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice William Barker was born on September 13, 1941, in Chattanooga; he earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Chattanooga in 1964 and his law degree from the University of Cincinnati School of Law in 1967; and

WHEREAS, following graduation from law school, he entered the United States Army, serving for two years as a Captain in the Medical Service Corps; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, he practiced law until his 1983 appointment to the Circuit Court for the 11th Judicial District; he was elected to the position in 1984 and again in 1990; and

WHEREAS, during his trial court tenure, Chief Justice Barker was consistently given the highest rating for a Circuit Court judge in Chattanooga Bar Association polls; and

WHEREAS, the retiring Chief Justice also serves as Chair of the Tennessee Judicial Council, the Tennessee Code Commission, the Supreme Court Building Commission, and the State Law library Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barker has lent his legal expertise as a member of the American Law Institute and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices and also serves as Chairman of its Problem-Solving Courts Committee; and

WHEREAS, he has also contributed his time and numerous talents to serving as a member of the Chattanooga Trial Lawyers Association, the Chattanooga Rotary Club, and the American Legion; a fellow of the Chattanooga Bar Foundation and of the Tennessee Bar Foundation; Director of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; a member of the Board of Governors of the Chattanooga Bar Association; an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and serving as Chairman, member of the Board of Deacons, and Ruling Elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barker has been recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2006; Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Cincinnati College of Law, 2006; and was selected as "Significant Sig" in 2006 by the Sigma Chi Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and achievements aside, Chief Justice William Barker is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife and three children; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barker exemplifies the allegiance to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bench and bar and the parties appearing before his court alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Chief Justice William M. Barker for his many years of meritorious service to the people of Tennessee as a jurist and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.